

# Analysis of comparative study of the «Hayat bilgisi» curriculum for primary school students

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**Abstract.** The State Strategy on development of education in Azerbaijan emphasized a need to adjust the national education system to challenges of human capital development and bring qualitative indicators of general education to European standards. Stating that national curriculum for general education lags behind the modern requirements, the strategy prioritized the importance of developing competence-based curriculum conducive to learning skills, knowledge and priorities of the country's socio-economic development which is aimed to create a knowledge-based economy. This priority indicates the Government's commitment to ensuring that the new National Curriculum compares favorably with the curricula in the highest performing countries, and sets rigorous requirements for pupil attainment which measure up to the highest standards set internationally. The results of Azerbaijani primary school students in Science TIMSS 2011 testings were below TIMSS average score, and that caused the study interest in exploring the reasons for the country students' poor results in science. For this purpose, a comparative analysis of the Azerbaijani primary school science curriculum against the corresponding document of the Russian Federation. This country was selected for comparison guided by the high results of the TIMSS Survey in parts of Science in 2015, as well as because it inherits the same education past. TIMSS 2015 Science Curriculum Assessment Framework was also a part of the comparative analysis. The conducted analysis identifies the level of relevance of Azerbaijani science curriculum to both analysed science curricula through comparison of content and cognitive domains and some science practices across selected curricula. This paper presents initial findings on what can be learned from the analysis of curricula of high-performing countries. In particular, this analysis may tell the Government in devising a new National Curriculum which measures up to the highest international standards.

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